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State medical pot laws get Supreme Court OK

BY GINA HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court cleared the way Tuesday for state laws allowing ill patients to smoke marijuana if a doctor recommends it.

Justices turned down the Bush administration's request to consider whether the federal government can punish doctors for recommending or perhaps just talking about the benefits of the drug to sick patients. An appeals court said the government cannot.

Nine states have laws legalizing marijuana for people with physician recommendations or prescriptions: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

And 35 states have passed legislation recognizing marijuana's medicinal value. But federal law bans the use of pot under any circumstances.

The case gave the court an opportunity to review its second medical marijuana case in two years. The last one involved cannabis clubs.

This one presented a more difficult issue, pitting free-speech rights of doctors against government power to keep physicians from encouraging illegal drug use. A ruling for the Bush administration would have made the state medical marijuana laws unusable.

Some California doctors and patients, in filings at the Supreme Court, compared doctor information on pot to physicians' advice on "red

wine to reduce the risk of heart disease, Vitamin C, acupuncture, or chicken soup."

The administration argued that public health — not the First Amendment free-speech rights of doctors or patients — was at stake.

"The provision of medical advice is not pure speech.

"It is the conduct of the practice of medicine. As such, it is subject to reasonable regulation," Solicitor General Theodore Olson said in court papers.

Even some supporters of the laws had expected the Supreme Court to step into the case. They said the court's refusal to intervene, although it does not address the merits of the case, could encourage other states to consider passing medical marijuana laws.

Keith Vines, a prosecutor in San Francisco who used marijuana to combat HIV-related illnesses, was among those who challenged a federal policy put in place during the Clinton administration. That policy required the revocation of federal prescription licenses of doctors who recommend marijuana.

"If the government is zipping them up, and we're not being told about options, that's negligence," Vines said.

Policy supporters contend that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration must be allowed to protect the public.

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said that physicians should be able to speak candidly with patients without fear of government sanctions, but they can be punished if they actually help patients obtain the drug.

Pledge of Allegiance case to be heard next year

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Tuesday it will decide whether the Pledge of Allegiance recited by generations of American schoolchildren is an unconstitutional blending of church and state.

The case sets up an emotional showdown over God in the public schools and in public life. It will settle whether the phrase "one nation under God" will remain a part of the patriotic oath as it is recited in most classrooms.

The court will hear the case sometime next year.

The justices agreed to hear an appeal involving a California atheist whose 9-year-old daughter, like most elementary school children, hears the Pledge of Allegiance recited daily.

A national uproar followed a federal appeals court ruling last year that the reference to God made the pledge unconstitutional in public schools. That ruling, if allowed to stand, would strip the reference from the version of the pledge recited by about 9.6 million schoolchildren in California and other western states.

The First Amendment guarantees that government will not "establish" religion, wording that has come to mean a general ban on overt government sponsorship of religion in public schools and elsewhere.

The Supreme Court has already said that schoolchildren cannot be required to recite the oath that begins, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America."

The court has also repeatedly barred school-sponsored prayer from classrooms, playing fields and school ceremonies.

Turkish Embassy hit by car bomb; 2 may be dead, dozen injured

BY SABAH JERGES

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A car bomb exploded Tuesday near the Turkish Embassy, killing the driver and possibly a bystander and wounding more than a dozen others, U.S. officials and witnesses said. The suicide attack came one week after Turkey's parliament approved sending troops to Iraq, a step opposed by many Iraqis.

The bombing also was the latest in a series of blasts to shake the Iraqi capital. Two days ago, a car bomb at the Baghdad Hotel, home to U.S. and Iraqi officials, killed at least eight people, including the bomber.

In Tuesday's attack, a car rushed at the embassy in the midafternoon and exploded, witnesses said. A concrete security barrier absorbed most of the blast, about 500 yards from the embassy, U.S. officials said.

Three embassy employees were slightly hurt, said Osman Paksut, Turkey's ambassador to Baghdad, interviewed on Turkey's private NTV television channel.

Col. Peter Mansoor of the U.S. 1st Armored Division said the vehicle's driver was killed. However, Iraqi witnesses said a second person also died and more than a dozen were injured.

About 50 people gathered behind the Turkish Embassy after the bombing, chanting pro-Saddam Hussein slogans and waving Iraqi banknotes with the ousted leader's picture.

Mansoor said an investigation by the FBI and Iraqi police had begun.

"About three days ago, we received indications that there might be increased danger on the Turkish Embassy," Mansoor said.

Tuesday's blast was the eighth suicide or vehicle bombing since early August, most targeting facilities of the



ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/AP

U.S. soldiers secure the area around the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad after a car bomb exploded at the gates Tuesday.

U.S. administration or of Iraqis and other nations helping the occupation. The blasts have killed scores of people, and U.S. and Iraqi authorities have yet to determine who is behind any of them.

The latest attack came amid widespread Iraqi opposition — even from the U.S.-appointed Governing Council — to the prospect of neighboring Turkey deploying troops on Iraqi soil.

But the United States strongly backs the Turkish deployment, part of what it

hopes will be a larger influx of international troops to help U.S. soldiers in the struggle to bring order to Iraq.

Turkey made clear Tuesday's bombing would not derail its plans for a deployment.

"Turkey has from the start ... done its best to help this country," said a Foreign Ministry statement released after the attack. "Turkey will persevere with its efforts with determination."

Earlier Tuesday, the U.S. military said two U.S. soldiers from the 1st Armored

Division were killed and one was injured in a traffic accident with a civilian car Monday in Baghdad.

A 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment soldier was found dead Monday night in the Euphrates River near the Mudaysis Dam in Hadithah, northwest of Baghdad, the military said. The soldier was found about 20 minutes after being reported missing.

In the holy city of Karbala, rival Shiite Muslim factions clashed overnight, and several people were killed or injured, witnesses said. Iraqi police surrounded the offices of one of the faction leaders.

The clash appeared to be part of a power struggle in the majority Shiite community between forces of al-Sadr, a firebrand cleric and a strong opponent of the U.S. military occupation, and followers of religious leaders who have taken a more moderate stand toward the Americans.

On Tuesday, al-Sadr called on U.S. forces to announce a timetable for their "imminent departure from Iraq" and in the interim "they should not interfere at all with the Iraqi people."

There were conflicting reports on what prompted the fighting.

Residents said up to 10 people were killed and more than a dozen wounded. Al-Sadr's staff put the casualty figure at one dead and three injured. Police refused to talk to journalists, and the atmosphere in the city, 50 miles southeast of Baghdad, was tense.

On Tuesday, about 50 Iraqi policemen surrounded the al-Mukayam mosque. About 30 members of al-Sadr's militia were barricaded inside.

As the standoff continued, a 9 p.m.-to-6 a.m. curfew was announced in the city until further notice.

U.S. and other troops of the Polish-led contingent set up checkpoints about a half-mile from major religious shrines.

News tracker: What's new with old news

Nation

Twin Towers architect's memoirs: World Trade Center architect Daniel Libeskind has been sending out a book proposal for his memoirs, his agent said.

The book, under the working title "Foundations of Optimism," started going out to editors last week, The New York Post reported in Tuesday editions.

In a statement, Libeskind said that part of the proceeds would go toward the children of the victims of the World Trade Center attacks.

Separated Egyptian twins: Surgeons were pleased with the recovery so far of 2-year-old Egyptian twins whose fused heads were surgically separated over the weekend, but cautioned that there are still several concerns, including long-term questions about brain damage.

A day after the completion of a 34-hour surgery to separate the two, who were born joined at the top of their heads, Dr. James Thomas, chief of critical care at Children's Medical Center Dallas, said Monday that they both were recovering well. The boys remained in critical but stable condition Tuesday morning.

The operation to separate Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim began Saturday morning and ended Sunday afternoon, after which they spent their first-ever night apart.

Law school shooting: A grand jury Monday indicted former law student Peter Odighizuwa on capital murder charges for allegedly killing his dean, a professor and another student in a shooting rampage last year at the school in Grundy, Va.

Odighizuwa, 45, who was deemed mentally competent to stand trial in September despite being diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, will face three counts of capital murder, three counts of attempted capital murder, and six weapons charges in Buchanan County Circuit Court.

No trial date has been set yet, according to the clerk's office.

If convicted, prosecutor Sheila Tolliver has promised to seek the death penalty.

Odighizuwa, a Nigerian native who came to Grundy from Ohio to attend the Appalachian School of Law, has been in police custody since classmates tackled him in front of campus on Jan. 16, 2002.

School officials said they had previously told him that he'd flunked out of school.

Tiger attack: A 600-pound tiger that nearly killed Roy Horn of "Siegfried and Roy" has been released from quarantine, Clark County (Nev.) officials said Tuesday.

The 7-year-old white tiger named Montecore was isolated for 10 days to ensure it didn't have rabies, county spokeswoman Stacey Welling said.

The animal had been held inside The Mirage hotel-casino since the Oct. 3 attack. The 59-year-old illusionist remained in critical condition Tuesday at a Las Vegas hospital.

MGM Mirage spokesman Alan Feldman said Monday the animal will continue to live at the Secret Garden, an animal habitat at The Mirage.

Father's rampage: One of two boys who survived his father's murderous rampage that left a brother and sister dead has been released from the hospital.

Four-year-old Regal Randall was released from Florida Hospital-Orlando on Monday afternoon.

Regal was found Sept. 14 floating in an Altamonte Springs retention pond. His sister, Yana Randall, 2, died in that pond.

The next morning, their father, Bryan Randall, strapped his surviving sons Bryan Jr. and Julian into the driver's side of his Dodge Durango and plowed the SUV into the path of a semi.

Bryan Sr. died on scene. Bryan Jr. died the next day of massive head injuries. Julian Randall survived and has since returned to school.

Bryan Randall and his estranged wife were in the middle of a heated divorce which included accusations of abuse.

Soccer assault: A 17-year-old student was in the Allegany County (N.Y.) Jail Tuesday, accused of sexually abusing a younger soccer teammate, authorities said.

The criminal charges followed the suspension of four students from Friendship Central School last week and a decision by school officials to end the team's soccer season.

Matt Crew was being held in lieu of \$5,000 bail on charges of felony sexual abuse and second-degree harassment. The incident began with a verbal altercation between Crew and the victim.

Comatose woman: An appeals court Tuesday refused to block the removal of a severely brain-damaged woman's feeding tube, one of the last hopes her parents had for keeping her alive.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal in Lakeland, Fla., rejected two motions filed by an attorney for the parents of Terri Schiavo, who is scheduled to have the feeding tube removed Wednesday at her husband's request.

Schiavo, 39, is expected to die within two weeks after the tube is removed. She has been in a vegetative state since suffering a heart attack in 1990.

Her parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, have waged a long legal battle against her husband, Michael Schiavo, saying their daughter could be rehabilitated but has never been given the chance.

Michael Schiavo says he is carrying out his wife's wishes that she not be kept alive artificially.

Children slain: A woman in Houston convicted last year of drowning her five children in a bathtub has been placed on suicide watch for at least the third time since she was arrested, her defense lawyer said.

Andrea Yates, 39, remains in isolation at a prison for mentally ill inmates, but is showing gradual improvement, defense lawyer George Parnham said Tuesday.

About three weeks ago she slipped into a psychotic state, said Parnham, who is planning to appeal her conviction.

Yates claimed insanity after drowning her five children in their family's bathtub in June 2001. She called 911 after the drownings and later told police the devil had told her to kill her kids.

Jurors rejected her plea, convicting her of murder, and she is serving life in prison. Yates becomes eligible for parole in 2041.

wanted sexual advances. Both were exchange students in South Korea at the time of the killing in a Seoul hotel room on March 18, 2001.

Snider was acquitted in the Seoul High Court, and had also been acquitted by a lower court in June.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a prosecutor said he would consider whether to appeal the case to the Supreme Court. Prosecutors have a week to decide.

She was arrested by FBI agents in West Virginia in February 2002 and sent to Seoul in December that year, becoming the first U.S. citizen to be extradited to South Korea.

Extradition request: A Greek appeals court on Tuesday rejected a Russian extradition request for media tycoon Vladimir Gusinsky, accused in his country of fraud and money laundering.

In a hearing that lasted one minute, an appellate court judge threw out the Russian request after ruling that under Greek law the accusations did not constitute a crime as he had no outstanding debts to the Russian state.

"I am satisfied with the court's decision," Gusinsky said without further comment.

Gusinsky left the downtown Athens court in a jeep. He was expected to return to Israel, where he lives, later Tuesday, lawyers said.

Pakistani missile: The Pakistani military test-fired a mid-range missile on Tuesday that can fly 435 miles and hit many targets in India, the country's main rival. The launch was the last in a series of three tests this month, it said.

Longer-range missiles will be tested in the future, the army said in a statement.

The Indian Defense Ministry had no immediate comment on the test. Pakistan has insisted the tests are not aimed at its rival despite simmering tensions.

Iraqi money: Crateloads of new Iraqi dinars arrived in Baghdad banks Monday, as coalition officials made their final deliveries of the new banknotes two days before the money is released into nationwide circulation.

Rafidain Bank branch manager Muhammad al-Qaissi said the new money — which comes without an image of Saddam Hussein — will be a welcome change for the whole country.

About 80 banks citywide have already gotten their allotment of the new currency, said Basel Abushaban, who is in charge of the coalition's currency exchange operations for Baghdad.

The new currency eventually will reach Iraq's 250 banks. For the last two weeks, plane loads of new money have been arriving in Baghdad from England, where the money is printed.

Holocaust bank accounts: Swiss banks that settled a suit with Holocaust victims for \$1.25 billion have agreed to give investigators limited access to information on millions of accounts.

The agreement will help identify accounts that were lost or looted, the head lawyer for the Holocaust victims said.

"It will enable us to determine if we should continue to press for further access," Burt Neuborne said.

An Oct. 2 report by a court-appointed official criticized the Swiss banks for using bank secrecy laws to bar access to 4.1 million Nazi-era accounts, opened from 1933 to 1945. The banks released information on only 36,000 accounts.

War on terrorism

Islamic summit: The world's largest Islamic organization settled differences Tuesday and prepared a statement that would give Iraq's U.S.-picked government recognition from some of the harshest critics of the U.S.-led invasion.

The breakthrough, reached by foreign ministers of the 57-nation Organi-

zation of the Islamic Conference, came as the United States began a push to win U.N. Security Council approval for a revised resolution that would steer Iraq from American-led occupation to elected civilian rule.

Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar of Malaysia, which initially sought to exclude the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council from this week's OIC meetings, said at the conclusion of two days of deliberations with fellow Islamic foreign ministers that the OIC had accepted the council as Iraq's representative.

Terrorism plans: Top Asian terror suspect Hambali has revealed plots to strike American targets in the Philippines — plans that included crashing bomb-laden speedboats into U.S. warships, security officials told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

But the plots, reportedly abandoned by the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah terror network, contained such erroneous details that they appeared more like a "wish list" than a real threat, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

Hambali, an Indonesian whose real name is Riduan Isamuddin, was allegedly Osama bin Laden's key Southeast Asia operative and the operations chief of Jemaah Islamiyah, the group blamed for last October's Bali bombings that killed 202 people and an August hotel bombing in Jakarta that left 12 dead.

Baghdad poll: A Gallup poll of Baghdad residents shows many still have sharply mixed feelings about the U.S. military presence.

The poll found that 71 percent of the capital city's residents felt U.S. troops should not leave in the next few months.

Just 26 percent felt the troops should leave that soon.

However, a sizable minority felt that circumstances could occur in which attacks against the troops could be justified. Almost one in five, 19 percent, said attacks could be justified, and an additional 17 percent said they could be in some situations.

Almost six in 10 in the poll, 58 percent, said that U.S. troops in Baghdad have behaved fairly well or very well, with one in 10 saying "very well." Twenty percent said the troops have behaved fairly badly and 9 percent said very badly.

To conduct the poll, Gallup did interviews face-to-face in people's homes chosen at random from all geographic sectors of the city, and more than nine in 10 agreed to participate.

The poll of 1,178 adults was taken between Aug. 28 and Sept. 4 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Al-Qaida in Yemen: Police arrested five members of a suspected al-Qaida cell planning attacks against Western targets in Yemen, a security official said Monday.

The arrests followed the detention earlier this month of five suspected members of the same cell, including two Syrians and one Yemeni woman, and seizure of evidence linked to alleged attack plots.

Business

McDonald's contest: McDonald's Corp. was launching a new Monopoly game promotion Tuesday, two years after the fast-food giant's last Monopoly effort ended in a multimillion-dollar scam.

The Monopoly Best Chance game runs through Nov. 10 or while distribution supplies last, at participating McDonald's restaurants nationwide and on Guam.

The last Monopoly promotion ended badly in August 2000 when McDonald's and the FBI announced that an employee of Simon Marketing, which ran it, had distributed winning game pieces to a network of accomplices.

From wire reports

Printing delayed

An article in Monday's Stars and Stripes said the newspaper would print in Baghdad starting today.

Because of technical difficulties at the prospective print site, the start date for printing has been delayed. The delay is expected to be a short one. In the meantime, readers in Iraq will continue to receive copies of Stars and Stripes from its printing plant in Kuwait.

World

Acquittal upheld: An American woman accused of killing a fellow U.S. student in South Korea in 2001 had her acquittal upheld by an appeals court Tuesday.

"It feels really, really good," said 22-year-old Kenzi Snider, who cried and hugged her mother, Heath Bozoni, when the verdict was read out in a Seoul courtroom.

Snider was accused of beating to death 21-year-old Jamie Penich, a University of Pittsburgh student, over un-

News from around the war

Fort Hood soldier killed in Iraq

KILGORE, Texas — A Kilgore soldier killed in Iraq was remembered Tuesday as a dedicated husband and stepson who loved spending his free time hunting and fishing.

Pfc. Stephen E. Wyatt died Monday in Balad, Iraq, when his convoy was hit with an explosive and gunfire, the Department of Defense said.

The 19-year-old grew up in Kilgore and enlisted in the Army on his 18th birthday, his stepmother, Lilmah Wyatt, said.

Wyatt was part of the 17th Field Artillery Brigade at Fort Sill, Okla. He met his wife, Kelly, while they were stationed together at Fort Sill, and they married nine months ago, Lilmah Wyatt said.

"I want everybody know he was a hero, that he died doing what he wanted to do," Lilmah Wyatt said.

A Michigan soldier who was based out of Fort Hood also was killed Monday.

Spc. Donald L. Wheeler of Concord, Mich., was searching for explosives in Tikrit, Iraq, when his unit was attacked with a rocket propelled grenade.

The 22-year old was part of Fort Hood's 4th Infantry Division.

Wheeler joined the Army in 2001 and had been at Fort Hood since April 2002.

S. Koreans to discuss Iraq dispatch

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's senior national security advisor has left for Washington, D.C., to discuss a possible South Korean deployment of combat troops to Iraq, officials said Monday.

Ra Jong-yil is to meet with his U.S. counterpart, national security advisor Condoleezza Rice, during four days of meetings.

While opinion polls show that a strong majority of South Koreans oppose a troop dispatch to Iraq, South Korean president Roh Moo-hyun has given several indications that he is close to sending troops.

South Korea will make a decision by the end of the year, officials have said.

Navy P-3s monitor Philippines

MANILA, Philippines — The U.S. military has deployed Orion P-3 surveillance planes to scour Philippine jungles for al-Qaida-linked guerrillas who pose a threat to American counterterrorism trainers, the Philippine air force said Monday.

Deployment of the long-range spy planes, at least two of which are stationed at a central Philippine air base, started two weeks ago with regular surveillance flights over the southern island of Mindanao as part of a stronger security shield for U.S. forces there, air force spokesman Maj. Restituto Padilla said.

The Orions are manned by U.S. Navy personnel and will remain in the country indefinitely, Padilla said. They were able to deploy only recently, after American military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan eased, he said.

They provide surveillance and intelligence data about pirates and the Abu Sayyaf groups operating in areas with known terrorist presence," Padilla said.

Navy Capt. Dennis Williams, a U.S. Pacific Command liaison officer in Manila, said the U.S. aircraft were deployed at the Philippines' request, primarily to provide intelligence that could bolster Manila's war on terrorism.

Militant sentenced to 20 years

JAKARTA, Indonesia — An Indonesian court convicted an Islamic militant Monday of bombing the Philippine ambassador's house in 2000 and sentenced him to 20 years in prison.

Abdul Jabar also was found guilty of involvement in two church bombings on Christmas Eve 2000. Officials have blamed the attacks on the al-Qaida-linked Southeast Asia terror group Jemaah Islamiyah.

State prosecutors had urged judges to sentence Jabar to life in prison for his role in preparing the explosives for the Jakarta blast and detonating the device that killed two passers-by and seriously injured the Philippine envoy, Leonidas Caday.

Jabar, 33, smiled broadly when the verdict was announced. He then told the judge that he would appeal the verdict.

Jabar had admitted he drove the van packed with explosives from the West Java town of Cirebon to the Philippine ambassador's house in Jakarta and that he detonated the explosives using a mobile phone.

Jabar also confessed to taking part in a string of church bombings in nine Indonesian cities on Christmas Eve 2000 that killed 19 people. He surrendered to police on Jan. 23 on Lombok island, after being persuaded to do so by his family.

U.S. gets No. 3 in Ansar al-Islam

WASHINGTON — U.S. forces in Iraq have captured a senior member of Ansar al-Islam, an extremist group suspected of having ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, a senior U.S. defense official said Tuesday.

The capture of Aso Hawleri late last week in Mosul has not been publicly announced. He was taken into custody by soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division, said the defense official, who discussed the matter on condition of anonymity.

No other details were immediately available. The official said Hawleri is thought to be the third-ranking official in Ansar al-Islam, most of whose leaders were believed to have fled their stronghold in northern Iraq before U.S. forces invaded in March. U.S. and Kurdish forces destroyed the group's main base in the early weeks of the war.

Ansar had taken control of a slice of the Kurdish-controlled area near the Iranian border, enforcing a version of Islam only slightly less stringent than the Taliban in Afghanistan. Their mountain strongholds were in an area not controlled by Iraqi government forces.

U.S. officials say Ansar sent about a dozen people through al-Qaida camps in 1999 and 2000 and experimented with biotoxin ricin in 2002.

Resolution gets mixed reactions

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and countries seeking a quick handover of power to the Iraqis expressed disappointment Tuesday that a new U.S. resolution didn't give a timetable for the Americans to relinquish sovereignty.

Germany, France and Russia said they planned to propose amendments to the latest draft, which would set a Dec. 15 deadline for Iraq's Governing Council to submit a timetable for drafting a constitution and holding elections.

The United States made clear it wants a quick vote,

and a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was highly doubtful Washington would agree to any major changes.

"We have asked members of the Security Council to be ready to vote from 3 p.m. EDT Wednesday on," said Richard Grenell, spokesman for U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte.

Even if there are no further changes, the resolution is likely to get the minimum nine "yes" votes needed for adoption. France has ruled out using its veto — but some council members are concerned at the mixed message the council would send if the resolution only was approved by a slim margin.

Annan said he hopes the United States will work with other council members "to get as broad support as possible, because I have always maintained that the council is at its best and has the greatest impact when it is united."

President Bush's main aim in seeking a new resolution is to get more countries to contribute troops and money to stabilize and rebuild Iraq. The resolution would authorize a multinational force — sought by some potential troop-contributing nations — led by the United States.

Washington wants a vote ahead of a major donors' conference for Iraq in Spain on Oct. 23-24.

Charge of Saddam in Tikrit refuted

TIKRIT, Iraq — A U.S. Army spokeswoman said Tuesday the military had no reports of Saddam Hussein hiding in his hometown of Tikrit in northern Iraq, countering a statement by an Army officer the previous day that the ousted Iraqi leader was recently in the region.

"We do not have intelligence that he is and has been specifically in Tikrit," said Maj. Josselyn Aberle, spokeswoman for the 4th Infantry Division, which controls a large swathe of the country's north. "Because if we did, we would have the capability to act on it."

However, Aberle said there has been intelligence that former regime members, possibly even Saddam, had traveled through the area.

The 4th Infantry Division's headquarters are in Tikrit, the fugitive former president's hometown, 120 miles north of Baghdad.

Aberle's comments contradicted those of Maj. Troy Smith, a deputy brigade commander, who on Monday told reporters the military has "clear indication" Saddam was recently in Tikrit.

Afghan troops raid camp

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Hundreds of Afghan troops backed by U.S. soldiers and helicopters attacked a suspected Taliban hide-out, killing at least four rebels and capturing eight others, Afghan and U.S. officials said Tuesday.

One Afghan soldier was killed and five others were wounded. Jan Mohammed Khan, governor of the central Uruzgan province where the raid occurred, said the captured Taliban appeared to be residents of Uruzgan and the neighboring province of Zabul.

The raid started Monday in the Chaar Cheno district, an area believed to be a Taliban stronghold, police chief Haji Mohammed Akhtar said. It was continuing Tuesday, but Akhtar gave no other details.

"We will either kill or capture these Taliban," Akhtar said.

From wire and staff reports

Brigade hopes restoring building will do the same for relations

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The roof was patched and new windows installed at the kindergarten and primary school in Baghdad's French Quarter section.

But something far more significant may have been created while a school that had been looted and bombed was repaired under the auspices of the 308th Civil Affairs Brigade, an Army Reserve unit from Chicago.

Perhaps some long-term impressions were formed in the minds of the children who Sunday cheered and applauded U.S. troops at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the freshly painted and restored school.

"No matter what happens in the future," said Lt. Col. Jim Berenz, the brigade operations officer, "they will always remember when the Americans

were here. The impact is more than immediate. It is everlasting."

Berenz seemed genuinely moved when a bouquet of flowers was placed in his arms as he entered the school to chants from children dressed especially nice for the special occasion.

"Welcome, welcome to our friends. Welcome to a new Iraq," they sang again and again in their language while many waved homemade Iraqi flags.

In April, this school near the Baghdad International Airport was a mess.

The roof was filled with holes. Looters had torn windows from the walls and pulled down ceiling fans. The air conditioners were gone. Unexploded ordnance was strewn about.

"It was not beautiful at all," is how Ranin Mohammed, 10, described the school where she is a fifth-grader. "Now, they have made a beautiful school. I'm very happy about it."

To pay for the project, the brigade dipped into a fund set aside by the Department of Defense for humanitarian efforts.

The idea is to show evidence of progress on the ground while the larger picture takes shape.

The brigade asked for estimates from local contractors and soon applied to the DOD fund for \$72,000, a tiny fraction of what will eventually be spent in Iraq.

But for the teachers and students, the school looks like a few million dinars.

Hanaa al Siqab, an English teacher for five years at the school, said, "I really love this school. When it was damaged, I was very sad. Today, I am very happy."

As Berenz toured the school, where a large buffet lunch was served, he was frequently stopped to accept congratulations and thanks from teachers and parents. Students, too, stepped for-

ward to thank him or to hand him a card, tangible evidence of their gratitude.

"I feel proud. I feel happy," Berenz said.

He added it was important that an Iraqi contractor was used and able to finish the job in barely three months, in time for the new school year now starting. It pumped money into the economy and gave people some needed work.

But, again, the effort here may outlast the school building. The true impact of this celebration of friendship may not be fully realized until the children or grandchildren of these students are attending this school.

Col. Butch Barnes, the 308th's commander, said, "The relationship we have with this country is going to be based on what they remember we did for them."

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Following the trails of terror

Terrorists said to be using Mideast smuggling routes

BY BRIAN MURPHY
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — In a grimy tea house on a dead-end alley, Afghans who sneaked into Iran plot their next moves: safe houses, secret border crossings, slipping like shadows along ancient smuggling routes that crisscross the globe.

Al-Qaida operatives used such means to enter Iran after fleeing Afghanistan, Iranian authorities say, as the United States and other countries like Syria, Iraq and Greece — with the coming Olympic Games — point to growing evidence that terrorists are following longtime immigrant- and drug-smuggling trails.

At the closet-size tea house teeming with bearded Muslims, the topic of discussion is a favorite smuggling route with the faraway goal of jobs: over the mountains into Turkey, then to Istanbul and on to European Union member Greece.

A smuggler who gave only the name Amir described borders as "just lines drawn on a map."

"We can pass over them like wind," he said.

Iran has felt it brew into a storm. "An open wound" is how Iran's top police official, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, described the clandestine paths this past week.

He urged greater international cooperation to combat cross-border human smuggling — an appeal Iran once reserved for fighting drug trafficking. Iran says it holds many al-Qaida suspects who apparently used smugglers' routes out of Afghanistan following the Taliban's fall two years ago.

Iran's intelligence minister, Ali Yunesi, said in July that Iran was holding "a large number of small and big-time elements of al-Qaida." Iran refuses to identify

the detainees or allow access to Western interrogators, but Saudi officials believe the suspects include Saad bin Laden, the son of Osama bin Laden.

Iran has promised to cooperate in the international hunt for al-Qaida, apparently fearing U.S. wrath and diplomatic snubs from Europe. But Washington maintains that anti-U.S. fighters have continued to enter Iraq from Iran.

Syria faces similar accusations. Syrian President Bashar Assad said it was impossible to control the country's 310-mile desert frontier with Iraq.

"There is arms smuggling and persons [crossing the border] and we don't know who they are," he told the newspaper Al Hayat last week. "Of course, the Americans say that they are terrorists. ... Maybe, for them, any Arab is a terrorist."

The smuggling routes — crafted expressly to avoid detection away from official border crossings — traverse the globe and carry drug cargo and millions of illegal immigrants seeking work or stability in quests as old as poverty and war.

From the Middle East to the Rio Grande to Australia's tropical coast facing Asia, border patrols have been bolstered and captured illegal immigrants are being increasingly evaluated for possible terrorist ties.

In Greece — host of next year's Summer Olympics in Athens and a main destination for human traffickers from Asia and the Middle East — officials last week opened an investigation into possible al-Qaida links to a suspected immigrant smuggler.

"This is a very serious issue," said Greek government spokesman Christos Protopapas.

Other terrorist footprints so far on secret immigrant routes include:

■ Turkish authorities arrested three suspected al-Qaida militants who entered from Iran last year using fake travel documents allegedly provided

by human smugglers. Turkish officials say they were headed to Israel for suicide bombings.

■ Romanian police last month detained an Egyptian man with suspected links to the militant group Islamic Jihad. The suspect, who was held for three days and released, was allegedly trying to sneak into Hungary. Romanian officials say the suspect is still under investigation.

■ In Milan, Italy, a judge indicted five Tunisians in July for alleged links to al-Qaida. A sixth man, arrested as part of the same group, plea-bargained to the lower charges of forging documents and smuggling illegal immigrants.

■ Two Algerian illegal immigrants in Britain were convicted in April of raising funds and recruiting for al-Qaida.

Experts wonder if this could just be the beginning as terrorists seek a back door around even the most seamless security.

"In some ways, it's a perfect cover," Saeed Laylaz, a security and political analyst in Tehran, told The Associated Press. "A terrorist pretends to be an economic migrant with no papers. Even if you're caught, you're usually just sent back and able to try again."

The immigrant routes could be part of a reshaping of strategies by al-Qaida and other groups in response to worldwide security clampdowns, some experts believe. Instead of hiding in plain sight — as the Sept. 11 hijackers managed — terrorist cells may increasingly adopt underground tactics: no inspections at border points, no paper trail to track, the anonymity of the undocumented.

In the United States, some officials see the country's vast land borders as weak points in the nation's reinforced security edifice.

U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee's terrorism subcommittee, has pressed for an easing of environmental restrictions that limit patrol areas along the Mexican border.

"If I were a terrorist trying to get into the United States, it wouldn't take me long to hire one of the coyotes [immigrant smugglers] in northern Mexico and come in," the Arizona republican said at a news conference earlier this

year. "Our border is so porous you'd have a pretty good shot of making it the first time."

In July, a top investigator at the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, suggested possible links between human-smuggling rings and terrorists.

"Terrorist and their associates are likely to align themselves with specific alien-smuggling networks to obtain undetected entry into the United States," Charles Demore, the bureau's interim assistant director of investigations, told the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Stopping them is another matter. "All you have to do is look at the success — or really lack of it — that the U.S. has had stopping drug trafficking to realize that borders are almost impossible to fully control," said Ted Carpenter, a foreign policy specialist at the Cato Institute in Washington. "It's a very big world and people will always find ways to get from one country to another."

Tackling the problem, officials from Canada and northeastern U.S. states agreed in July to share anti-terrorism intelligence. In Asia, police chiefs from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations promised stronger anti-terrorism measures in September, including monitoring illegal border movement.

Some experts see an alliance of convenience developing between smugglers hungry for cash and terrorists willing to pay whatever it takes.

"There are very highly organized human-smuggling networks out there," said Walter Purdy, director of the Terrorism Research Center in Burke, Virginia. "They will move you, move your equipment, move your people, move anything you want to move. This is a huge problem staring us in the face."

Other experts say using smuggling routes is a gamble.

"Immigrant smugglers are, by nature, outlaws. You have to be very desperate to trust them," said Ahmet Icdugy, a researcher on illegal immigration at Koc University in Istanbul, Turkey. "I think terrorists won't really start using immigrant-smuggling routes unless there is no other choice and they feel airports and legal land borders are too risky."

Stripes survey of nearly 2,000 troops in Iraq finds morale varies

BY DAVID JOSAR
Stars and Stripes

In northern Iraq, just outside Tikrit, a soldier from the 101st Airborne sleeps every night in a sleeping bag under camouflaged netting in an open field. Every meal comes in brown plastic, ready to eat. At Tallil Air Base, about 600 miles to the south, Air Force members sleep in double beds complete with government-issued comforters and pillows.

Conditions for U.S. troops in Iraq vary widely, and so, too, does the mood and morale of the individual units scattered throughout the country. For months, Stars and Stripes has received scores of letters from troops complaining about one thing or another connected with their service, as well as scores of letters from troops decrying the claims of the complainers and urging them to just do their duty.

In an effort to feel the pulse of U.S. forces firsthand, Stars and Stripes reporters spent three weeks in August fanning across Iraq. Reporters traveled as far south as the enemy prisoner-of-war camp in Umm Qasr, about 15 miles north of the Kuwait border, and as far north as Mosul, about 70 miles from Turkey. To get a firsthand account of what life was like for American forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom, reporters slept, ate, showered and went on patrol with troops.

They handed out and received responses to nearly 2,000 questionnaires. (The U.S. Air Force allowed reporters to visit Air Force bases, but did not allow airmen to complete the surveys at some of its bases. At one base, reporters were allowed to meet with airmen and ask them the questions on the survey.)

Troops were asked about their morale and their unit's morale. They were asked about their living conditions and whether they thought their commanders

were doing anything to improve those conditions. They were asked about their unit's mission and if they felt going to war in Iraq was worthwhile for America.

Of those surveyed:

■ Many Reserve and National Guard respondents said they were unhappy with a number of things, just as letter writers from those units had said in letters to the newspaper. They said they often felt like second-class soldiers who don't receive the same equipment, support and treatment as their active-duty counterparts.

■ When asked how worthwhile they thought the war in Iraq was for the United States, the split among all those responding was 67 percent saying it was "worthwhile," "probably worthwhile" or "very worthwhile," with 31 percent saying it was "little value" or of "no value at all."

■ Asked about their personal morale, 34 percent overall rated it as "low" or "very low," 27 percent said it was "high" or "very high," and virtually all the rest called it "average." Perceptions of their unit's morale ranked heavier on the "low" side. This question of personal morale elicited widely different responses among the services. Reservists ranked their morale as the lowest by far. Marine and Air Force respondents tended to rate their own morale on the high side, while Army respondents were fairly evenly divided between high and low morale, with most falling in the middle, or "average."

■ Of all troops surveyed, 72 percent rated living conditions "average" or better. But disparities existed throughout the region. One Army unit could have three hot meals a day and another unit with the same mission subsisted on MREs and rationed bottles of water. Some units, although they had been in Iraq for months, still hadn't had a day off or access to a hot shower. Other troops had been in Iraq a few weeks

and were already being allowed to leave on morale trips.

■ The numbers show that sometimes camp conditions and morale are not always connected. Some Marines surveyed in southern Iraq live in austere conditions but still had overall high morale.

■ There is a sharp divide between the Air Force and Army. The Army and Air Force share several bases in Iraq, but the Air Force has separate — and superior — living conditions. The Air Force at Tallil Air Base, for example, brought in a Pizza Hut concession but the Army is barred from using it. The Air Force does deploy differently based on its mission, but soldiers, after seeing the contrast, said the division, which at times is a fence topped with barbed wire, undercuts morale and teamwork. The Air Force has its own gyms, morale tents and mess halls.

■ Noncommissioned officers predict problems in re-enlistment, although military leaders say enlistment rates historically drop after conflicts. Nearly half of the troops surveyed said they do not plan to re-enlist. No re-enlistment figures from Iraq are available at this point, while generally the overall military re-enlistment rates appear to be satisfactory or better.

■ While from all indications troops in Iraq are doing what needs to be done, slightly more than one-third of those responding to the questionnaire said their mission was for the most part "not clearly defined" or "not at all defined." Sixty-three percent said it was. Again, reservists mostly said that the mission was unclear. Marine and Air Force respondents tended to say that the mission was "mostly clear" or "very clear." As in other questions, Army respondents, the largest group surveyed, were almost evenly split on the question.

See SURVEY on Page 5

Survey: Troops reveal feelings on life in Iraq

Continued from Page 4

At the same time, many respondents — mainly from the Reserve and Army — said that what they were doing was not closely related to what they were trained to do. Air Force and Marine respondents mainly tended to see their current mission and their training as more closely aligned.

Reporters in the field found that the transition from war-fighting to occupation had led to different tasks. Soldiers in transportation companies were operating equipment they were not trained to drive, for instance. Marines were asked to perform peacekeeping duties they said they had been rarely been asked to do before. In interviews or written responses to the questionnaire, some troops described what they were doing as "busy work."

■ While supply problems have not crippled operations, they have stymied some units. Troops had plenty of bullets, grenades, weapons and fuel, but they said they did not have enough of the plates that make flak vests impervious to bullets. Units also complained that they were sent into combat without enough medical supplies, and transportation companies resorted to building their own "gun trucks" because there were not enough to provide security for convoys. More than 60 percent of the troops surveyed rated their chain of command's ability to get them supplies as "average" or better. Sixty-three percent of Reserve troops rated that ability as "not good" or "poor," and 27 percent of the Army rated that "not good" or "poor."

■ In interviews, written comments on questionnaires and letters to the editor, a number of troops complained about having to spend more time in Iraq than they thought necessary or were told they would spend. Most of these were reservists.

Over the next week, Stars and Stripes will present its findings on the issues that the troops in Iraq say are important to them. The series also will show creative means troops come up with to do their jobs — and to have some fun or add levity. And it will present what troops say leaders can do to improve morale and some ways troops keep their own morale high. It will conclude with what is next for troops and bases in Iraq.

Staff writers Jon Anderson, Terry Boyd, Lisa Burgess, Steve Liewer, Marni McEntee and Scott Schonauer contributed to this story.

Stripes searches Iraq for 'ground truth'

Stars and Stripes

Even before the war in Iraq started, the mail started coming in to Stars and Stripes.

The letters page was filled with notes from servicemembers raising concerns in the Middle East. Many complained about living conditions, inequities and problems with the mail.

As the warfighting force evolved into a stabilization force, the letters continued to flow into Stripes offices. Between June and September, Stripes printed 200 letters from troops in the deserts of Iraq and Kuwait and other remote outposts that have led the fight against terrorism.

Roughly 60 percent complained about various things, ranging from living conditions to redeployment dates back home. The remaining 40 percent urged the others to get on with their duty.

With so many voices clamoring for attention, Stripes decided to try to find out what the ground truth was in Iraq. What were the concerns troops had as they watched their mission change from storming Baghdad to patrolling it? Were things as bad as some servicemembers said? Were conditions as good as others said?

Armed with satellite phones, laptop computers and a questionnaire that sought to seek soldiers' opinions, a three teams of reporters were dispatched to Iraq to see for themselves what it was like. One team of two reporters headed north to Mosul, another south toward Babylon and others worked around the Baghdad area.

The goal was to talk to as many servicemembers as possible. They were asked to fill out a 17-part questionnaire. The results can't be projected onto the entire military population in Iraq, but the returns were impressive.

Initial plans called for having about 1,000 servicemembers fill out the questionnaire. Visits were expected to be made to about a dozen camps during a three-week window in August. Instead, 1,935 servicemembers filled out the questionnaire, and the seven reporters visited nearly 50 camps in Iraq. Some of the troops said great things about their mission and what they were doing. Others were not as positive. All wanted to be heard.

Stripes listened.

Over the next six days, Stripes will tell those servicemembers' stories, sharing their victories, their battles and their concerns.

All are important, especially to the people serving in Iraq and the grateful nation back home.

The package, to which Stripes devoted an unprecedented amount of time and resources without the involvement of the Defense Department, will cover an array of topics ranging from troops' morale and changing mission to hidden benefits to deployments and suggestions on how to improve future rotations.

While the package ends after seven days, the complete coverage will continue as long as troops remain in the Middle East.

Stripes will continue to listen.

Sanchez says troops are focused and back mission

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Pentagon's top commander in Iraq said complaints about morale are "expected," but troops are focused and they understand and support the mission.

"Are you going to find soldiers on any given day who are down on morale? Of course," said Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of all U.S. forces in Iraq. "There are days when I wake up and don't feel very good and I'd probably bite your head off. I walk around and talk to all sorts of soldiers also, and I honestly believe our soldiers are doing very, very well. There is no morale problem."

Complaints about morale, living conditions and other issues surfaced in a Stars and Stripes survey of nearly 2,000 troops in Iraq.

Sanchez said complaints are "an Army's normal posture. What would be the difference if we were back in [Europe] or Fort Hood or wherever?" More importantly, he added, "I guar-

antee you that if you ask a soldier if he's focused on his mission, does he understand the criticality of his mission, I think you find that a majority of them really do understand why we're here and the implications of us not succeeding."

Indeed, nearly two-thirds of the troops surveyed said the war in Iraq was "worthwhile" or "very worthwhile." Almost a third said the war was of "little value" or "not worthwhile at all." Similarly, two thirds said their mission was clear, while a third disagreed.

"I think the missions we have are very clear," Sanchez said. "One, conduct offensive operations against non-compliant forces. The second one is stability and support operations in our zone."

Where there is confusion, he said, it likely comes from the blending of those two missions across a country that is as diverse as it is big.

"Each of my major subordinate commands has a totally different environment that they're operating under," Sanchez said. "And then to further break it down inside a division, differ-

ent sectors within the division have to totally different environments."

"That's a fairly significant challenge, being able to piece that together to the overall mission of the country," he said. "Even at the brigade [level], that can be problematic because such dynamic conditions exist. In some cases you're going from stability and support operations in one small area and then transition into a low-intensity conflict area very, very rapidly."

He points to Baghdad, where more than 40 of the nearly 100 U.S. combat fatalities have occurred since President Bush declared major combat operations over on May 1.

"This is probably one of the most complex environments. It's much more complex than Kosovo was. Just in sheer size and then all the different dynamics that are playing here. So that can be fairly confusing for a young soldier on the ground."

For a full transcript of the Sanchez interview go to www.stripes.com/morale E-mail Jon Anderson at: andersonj@mail.estripes.osd.mil

GI gets 3 years in shaken baby case

WÜRZBURG, Germany — A court-martial panel sentenced a 1st Infantry Division soldier to three years in prison in connection with an assault that left his infant son with permanent brain damage, a 1st ID official said.

After a four-day trial, Spc. Anthony Ragains, 30, of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment in Schweinfurt, was convicted Thursday of maiming his then-6-week-old son. Maiming is a military legal term for an assault that leaves a victim seriously disfigured or with permanent disabilities, said Capt. Sean Condron, senior trial counsel for the 1st ID staff judge advocate's office.

Condron said the attack occurred about 8:15 p.m. on Oct. 25, 2002, in a government apartment Ragains shared with his wife, Stacey, and their two children.

According to Condron, Ragains told investigators his wife was away when the baby woke from a nap crying and would not stop. He angrily shook the baby several times.

In addition to the prison term, the panel ordered Ragains to forfeit all pay during his confinement, to be reduced to the lowest enlisted rank and to receive a bad-conduct discharge.

A quarter of U.S. bases may close

ARLINGTON, Va. — Roughly one-fourth of the U.S. military's infrastructure could be on the chopping

block as leaders gear up for another round of base closures and realignments, a defense analyst said.

"[Defense Secretary Donald] Rumsfeld has told associates he wants to shutter 25 percent of military base capacity in a single round of base closures scheduled to take place in 2005," wrote Loren Thompson of the public policy research organization Lexington Institute in a one-page position paper.

"But cutting a quarter of capacity might mean closing over a hundred of the 425 bases still scattered across the nation, and few states would be left unscathed."

BRAC, the Base Realignment and Closure process, has no effect on overseas bases.

By law, Rumsfeld must submit by May 2005 a list of bases to be closed or realigned to the independent Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

It's a list that is nowhere near complete, said Pentagon spokesman Glenn Flood.

Possible closure might not mean an entire base, but could be office space defense department employees use in the suburbs of Washington, Flood said, citing an example.

The 2005 BRAC round would be the fifth following closures in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995. And according to Thompson, if it happens, would be the largest.

Soldier found dead

CAMP CASEY, South Korea — A U.S. soldier was found dead in his barracks room Monday morning. The Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry

Regiment (Air Assault) soldier was found dead at Camp Casey at 9 a.m., according to a 2nd Infantry Division news release.

The soldier's roommate discovered the body and alerted authorities. According to the release, 2nd ID military police and Criminal Investigation Command officials are investigating the death.

The death is being investigated. The soldier's name is being withheld until his family is notified.

Kitty Hawk under way

TOKYO — The aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk left its base port near Tokyo on Monday for an undisclosed destination, a Japan Coast Guard official said.

The 42-year-old non-nuclear-powered carrier had been at Yokosuka Naval Base since May 6, when it returned from the Persian Gulf after serving for five months in the war in Iraq.

The Kitty Hawk left Yokosuka just before noon, according to a spokesman at the Japan Coast Guard's regional office near Yokosuka, who spoke on condition of anonymity. He said the destination and the duration of its trip was not available from U.S. Navy officials based in Japan.

U.S. Navy officials were unavailable for comment. The Kitty Hawk is one of 11 U.S. vessels stationed at the naval facility, which is about 28 miles southwest of Tokyo and home to the U.S. Seventh Fleet command.

From staff and wire reports

Low-carb dieters eat more, lose more, new study reports

BY DANIEL Q. HANEY

The Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The dietary establishment has long argued it's impossible, but a new study offers intriguing evidence for the idea that people on low-carbohydrate diets can actually eat more than folks on standard lowfat plans and still lose weight.

Perhaps no idea is more controversial in the diet world than the contention — long espoused by the late Dr. Robert Atkins — that people on low-carbohydrate diets can consume more calories without paying a price on the scales.

Over the past year, several small studies have shown, to many experts' surprise, that the Atkins approach actually does work better, at least in the short run. Dieters lose more than those on a standard American Heart Association plan without driving up their cholesterol levels, as many feared would happen.

Skeptics contend, however, that these dieters simply must be eating less. Maybe the low-carb diets are more satisfying, so they do not get so hungry. Or perhaps the food choices are just so limited that low-carb dieters are too bored to eat a lot.

Now, a small but carefully controlled study offers a strong hint that maybe Atkins was right: People on low-carb, high-fat diets actually can eat more.

The study, directed by Penelope Greene of the Harvard

School of Public Health and presented at a meeting here this week of the American Association for the Study of Obesity, found that people eating an extra 300 calories a day on a very low-carb regimen lost just as much during a 12-week study as those on a standard lowfat diet.

Over the course of the study, they consumed an extra 25,000 calories. That should have added up to about seven pounds. But for some reason, it did not.

"There does indeed seem to be something about a low-carb diet that says you can eat more calories and lose a similar amount of weight," Greene said.

In the study, 21 overweight volunteers were divided into three categories: Two groups were randomly assigned to either low-fat or low-carb diets with 1,500 calories for women and 1,800 for men; a third group was also low-carb but got an extra 300 calories a day.

The study was unique because all the food was prepared at an upscale Italian restaurant in Cambridge, Mass., so researchers knew exactly what the participants ate. Most earlier studies simply sent people home with diet plans to follow as best they could.

In the end, everyone lost weight. Those on the lower-cal, low-carb regimen took off 23 pounds, while people who got the same calories on the lowfat approach lost 17 pounds. The big surprise, though, was that volunteers getting the extra 300 calories a day of low-carb food lost 20 pounds.

"It's very intriguing, but it raises more questions than it answers," said Gary Foster of the University of Pennsylvania.

"There is lots of data to suggest this shouldn't be true."

Bus driver says he fell asleep before wreck

TALLULAH, La. — A church bus driver told authorities he fell asleep in the moments before slamming into a parked tractor-trailer, killing eight senior citizens and injuring seven others, police said.

The driver, taking the seniors on a tour of historic sites, survived the wreck and spoke with investigators after the Monday morning crash, state police said. He told them that someone on the bus yelled, awakening him just before impact with the tractor-trailer hauling cotton, state police Trooper Julie Lewis said.

Fifteen people were aboard when the bus crashed on Interstate 20 in northeastern Louisiana. The cotton truck driver, who had pulled onto the shoulder to check his brakes, suffered minor head and neck injuries.

In the tiny West Texas town of Eldorado, a piece of paper taped to the office door at the First Baptist Church where the victims were members delivered the solemn news. The names of six people were typed; two were later added in pencil.

Authorities identified those killed as Kenneth Richardson, Betty A. Richardson, Delia Pina, Domingo Pina and Mary Ruth Robinson, all of Eldorado; Jean S. Demere and Jimmy D. Teel, both of Water Valley; and Laverne Shannon, of San Angelo.

The bus driver, Kenneth J. Thomas, 66, of Eldorado, suffered moderate injuries.

The bus and the truck remained upright on the side of the road after the crash, but the front end of the bus was demolished — pushed up under the rear of the 18-wheeler's trailer. Bales of cotton, seats from the bus, pillows and clothing littered the highway.

Sniper trial begins with innocent plea

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — John Allen Muhammad entered innocent pleas Tuesday as the death-penalty trial of the 42-year-old sniper suspect got under way a year after a series of deadly shootings terrified the Washington area.

Muhammad pleaded innocent to capital murder and firearms charges.

Wearing a white button-down shirt and tie, Muhammad told Circuit Judge LeRoy F. Millette Jr. he understood the charges and that he was ready for the trial.

"I'm prepared for it, yes," he said.

Millette introduced Muhammad and the lawyers in the case to about 80 prospective jurors who were brought into the courtroom in two groups of about 40 each. Muhammad stood and said nothing to the jurors while the defense and prosecuting attorneys said, "Good morning."

The judge excused 30 potential jurors. All but two were excused because they said they could not take time off work for the trial because of financial hardship.

Millette issued a strict warning to the jurors to ignore pre-trial publicity about the sniper shootings.

Two jurors were excused because they said they had heard so much about the case that they couldn't render a verdict based solely on the courtroom evidence.

The trial, expected to last up to six weeks, was moved some 200 miles out of metropolitan Washington to this southeastern Virginia city after defense lawyers argued that

every northern Virginia resident could be considered a victim because the shootings made them afraid.

Pennsylvania fugitive turns himself in

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. — After three days on the run, a murder suspect who escaped from jail by climbing down a 60-foot line of knotted bedsheets surrendered to state police at his rural home.

Hugo Selenski, who escaped late Friday from the Luzerne County Correctional Facility, was taken into custody Monday night at his home in Kingston Township, said state police Trooper Tom Kelly.

Police had gone there earlier in the evening but were refused entry by Selenski's girlfriend, Christina Strom, Kelly said. About 45 minutes after they left, Selenski's lawyer called to arrange the surrender, he said. Strom has not been charged with helping Selenski hide.

Strom told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Selenski was not home when police arrived, and she did not let them inside because she first wanted to get the lawyer's approval.

She said Selenski arrived and surrendered only after she left to go to a restaurant, and the only contact he made was a note he left on the table saying "that he loved me."

"He's going to be lodged and imprisoned at an undisclosed location," County prosecutor David Lupas said.

Kucinich formally launches campaign

CLEVELAND — Democrat Dennis Kucinich, the liberal four-term congressman who has been steadfast in his opposition to the Iraq war, formally launched his long-shot bid for the White House on Monday.

"America cannot put its foot on the accelerator of war and advocate peace," said Kucinich, who envisions the creation of a Cabinet-level Department of Peace and devoted much of his speech to rail against the U.S.-led war.

Kucinich, who has been campaigning for months, made the announcement in his hometown of Cleveland, the first stop of a 12-state tour that will include Michigan, New Hampshire, Wisconsin and Iowa.

"I'm running for president of the United States to enable the armies of peace," Kucinich told some 300 supporters in the chambers of the Cleveland city council, largely quiet on the Columbus Day holiday.

Kucinich, who favors withdrawing U.S. forces from Iraq, said that if elected president, he would look for nonviolent ways to solve the world's problems, including the Israeli-Palestinian tensions in the Middle East. The self-described urban populist also said he would order a study of reparations for blacks whose ancestors were slaves.

"Freedom bids us to free ourselves from the shackles of violence," he said. "When peace becomes innermost, it then becomes outermost in our communities and our nation."

The candidate has stressed several themes during his months on the campaign trail and in candidates' debates: his opposition to the U.S.-led war against Iraq and his call for American troops to return home; his desire to end the North American Free Trade Agreement.

From wire reports

Liberia's new leader

MONROVIA, Liberia — Businessman Gyude Bryant took office Tuesday as leader of Liberia's interim post-war government, taking up a two-year term meant to guide the devastated country into peace after 14 years of bloodletting by ousted warlord Charles Taylor.

Bryant, 54, took an oath as chairman — not president — of the transitional power-share government, pledging to take Liberia from a "state of despair."

"Never again will we Liberians use war as a way of addressing our concerns," declared Bryant, standing before West African leaders and Liberians in the Capitol rotunda of bullet-riddled Monrovia.

Tall and imposing, in a black suit, Bryant placed his left hand on a Bible held by his wife, and swore to "faithfully, conscientiously and impartially discharge the duties of the office of chairman of the national transitional government."

Past and present West African heads of state, some of whom just two months ago had ushered Taylor into exile out of his rebel-besieged capital, looked on.

"Liberia needs to be pulled up by all of us," President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria told the inauguration audience of heavily guarded rebel leaders, Taylor allies and international diplomats, before Bryant took the oath.

"If there's no peace in Liberia, there's no peace in West Africa," added Obasanjo, one of the most powerful figures in a region wrought by cross-border insurrections fueled by Taylor.

Ghana President John Kufuor, whose country provided the venue for 2½ months of talks that led to the peace deal and power-sharing government, also looked on.

Bryant, a longtime campaigner against warlords who stayed in Liberia throughout years of fighting under Taylor, was selected by all sides to lead the interim administration, formally ending Taylor's government.

A former rebel, Taylor launched Liberia into 1½ decades of bloody power struggles in 1989, at the head of a small insurgency.

The conflicts killed at least 150,000 people, and made refugees out of virtually everyone in the country at one time or another, by aid groups' estimate.

Ceding to pressure from international leaders and rebels attacking Monrovia, Taylor on Aug. 11 passed control of his failing government to Moses Blah, his vice president, and flew to Nigeria to take up Obasanjo's offer of exile.

Leaders from across Africa assembled in Monrovia then to see Taylor into exile, giving him the pomp-filled sendoff Taylor demanded as a condition of yielding power.

Rebels and government signed a peace deal Aug. 18, one week after Taylor's departure, setting up Bryant's tenure.

Japan-Italy mad cow link

A Japanese professor is suggesting a link between Japan's latest case of mad cow disease and infected cows in Italy.

University of Tokyo professor Takashi Onodera said Sunday the cow in Ibaraki Prefecture — which died of an atypical form of the bovine illness — appears to have a similar prion structure to that found in two cases in Italy, the Japan Times reported Monday.

Prions are the abnormal proteins that can trigger the brain-wasting disease, known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy. It's thought to cause the fatal Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans.

Japan is the first country outside Europe with the bovine illness. The Ibaraki cow was born in October 2001, the same month that Japan banned meat-and-bone meal, which experts generally consider the main source of infection, according to Japanese news reports.

From wire and staff reports

Rams 36, Falcons 0

ST. LOUIS — Look out NFL, the St. Louis Rams have a stingy defense to go with their precise offense.

Veteran Aeneas Williams forced two early turnovers as the Rams outclassed the Atlanta Falcons on Monday night. Atlanta managed only 209 yards in St. Louis' first shutout in two years.

It was the Rams' first home shutout since 1993, when they played in Anaheim.

Williams, playing free safety this year for the first time after a stellar career as a cornerback, has 52 career in-

terceptions, second to Oakland's Rod Woodson among active players. He picked off Doug Johnson's ill-advised first-quarter pass in the end zone, then knocked the ball free from Atlanta tight end Alge Crumpler and recovered the fumble in the second period.

Both turnovers set up long drives for points as St. Louis took a 10-0 halftime lead.

Marc Bulger threw for 352 yards and the two touchdowns to Torrey Holt.

Lamar Gordon, in his third start this season replacing injured Marshall Faulk, rushed for a career-high 92 yards and Holt had 11 receptions for 161 yards to spark the offense. Veteran receiver Isaac Bruce displayed his versatility with the second pass completion of his career.

St. Louis (3-2) won its ninth straight home game and handed the Falcons (1-5) their first shutout defeat since 1993. In a span of four plays in the third

quarter, the Rams had three sacks. They never allowed Atlanta, ranked 27th in total offense, to threaten to get coach Dan Reeves his 200th career victory.

The Falcons have lost five in a row and are in desperate need of a healthy Michael Vick. Johnson, his replacement, made several critical mistakes and the St. Louis defense even recorded a safety when Leonard Little nailed T.J. Duckett trying to run out of the end zone in the third quarter.

It was the fourth safety the Falcons have yielded this season.

From The Associated Press

NFL

Bengals' Dillon practices, but status still unclear

CINCINNATI — Bengals running back Corey Dillon returned to practice Monday after missing Cincinnati's last game with a strained groin.

Dillon has been limited to one complete game this season. He hyperextended a knee in a pileup in Oakland in the second week of the season and strained his groin a week later.

He started against Cleveland on Sept. 28, but had to leave the game because he couldn't cut. Coach Marvin Lewis then rested him during a loss at Buffalo, and Dillon didn't work out last week as the team was off.

Lewis said it was too early to tell whether Dillon will be available to play Sunday against Baltimore.

"Everything looked fine," Lewis said. "Everybody worked today. It was good to have Corey out there."

Dillon took handoffs, caught passes and ran agility drills during the brief time that practice was open to the media.

McNabb playing through injuries

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb will remain the Eagles' starting quarterback despite a sprained right thumb that has limited his effectiveness.

"He's working through the pain of that and should be fine," coach Andy Reid said Monday.

McNabb struggled Sunday in a loss to Dallas, often overthrowing his targets. He was 11-for-26 for 126 yards, his lowest total in a mediocre season.

McNabb, who was hurt Sept. 29 against Buffalo, played with wrapping around his thumb that extended to his wrist.

"It's not an injury he can't play with," Reid said.

Culpepper back as starter

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota quarterback Daunte Culpepper will return to the starting lineup this weekend when the Vikings host Denver.

Culpepper missed the Vikings' previous two games after breaking three small bones — and partially fracturing a fourth — in his lower back Sept. 21 at Detroit.

NFL briefs

Gus Frerotte started in Culpepper's place in Minnesota's wins over San Francisco and Atlanta. Culpepper, who returned to practice Monday, got an extra week of rest because the Vikings were idle this past weekend.

"He's good to go," coach Mike Tice said Monday. "He jumps right back in. He's the No. 1. Gus is back to being No. 2."

Brunell has elbow surgery

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jaguars quarterback Mark Brunell had surgery Monday on his left elbow and will be out at least a few weeks.

The surgery was done to alleviate swelling on his throwing elbow. Coach Jack Del Rio said Monday it would be at least two or three weeks before Brunell could throw again.

Brunell was injured Sept. 21 when he slid on the artificial turf in Indianapolis. An abrasion on the elbow needed five stitches.

Byron Leftwich started his third straight game in Brunell's place Sunday against Miami. Leftwich was backed up by David Garrard, and Del Rio said he didn't plan a roster move to acquire a third quarterback.

Pennington '50-50' to start Oct. 26 against Eagles

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Jets coach Herman Edwards said Monday there is a "50-50" chance quarterback Chad Pennington will start against the Philadelphia Eagles on Oct. 26.

Pennington, out since the preseason with a broken and dislocated left wrist, will begin doing team drills this week at practice wearing a red, noncontact jersey. Edwards said there is no chance Pennington will start Sunday against Houston.

Broncos LB Gold tears knee ligament

DENVER — Denver linebacker Ian Gold will miss the rest of the season after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

Gold was injured in the first quarter of Denver's 17-14 win Sunday against Pittsburgh while covering a punt. Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said Gold will have surgery after the swelling goes down, probably in a week or two.

"It's really tough," Shanahan said Monday. "Any time you lose not only a great player, but a great leader and a great person, it's always tough."

Moulds might return this week

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Buffalo receiver Eric Moulds could return to practice this week after missing the Bills' 30-3 loss to the New York Jets because of a strained groin.

Moulds didn't practice all last week but said Monday that he feels "a lot better."

Coach Gregg Williams was cautious about Moulds' return.

"We would hope that he would be able to get back out there sometime next week," he said.

Three Redskins hurting

ASHBURN, Va. — Washington Redskins tight end Robert Royal has a broken bone in his right hip and will miss at least six weeks.

Running back Trunc Canidate and cornerback Fred Smoot also could miss this week's game at Buffalo. Canidate has a severe ankle sprain, while Smoot sprained his shoulder in Sunday's 35-13 loss to Tampa Bay.

Royal was injured trying to block Simeon Rice. Canidate was hurt when another player landed on his ankle in the first half. Spurrier offered some slight hope that the team's leading rusher could play against the Bills, but Canidate won't be able to suit up Wednesday when the team returns to the practice field.

From The Associated Press

Plastic surgery starting to lose its stigma in Japan

BY GARY SCHAEFER

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Risa Arato never liked her hooded eyes — even her friends said she had a perpetually stony gaze. And she hated the way her sunglasses slipped down her nose. But the clincher was meeting her estranged father for the first time since childhood and being told she hadn't turned out very cute.

So the 19-year-old saleswoman decided to remake her face — and to do it on "Beauty Colosseum," a prime-time Japanese TV show in which people get free makeovers on camera from a panel of "beauty experts" including a cosmetic surgeon.

"I used to be afraid to show my face in public — I was a real indoor person,"

said Arato. "Now I can look people in the eye."

Facing less social stigma and encouraged by new no-scalpel procedures, women are more than ever changing the face of Japan by walking into cosmetic surgery clinics and walking out with rounder eyes, bigger noses and fewer wrinkles.

"Cosmetic surgery used to have a shadowy reputation," said plastic surgeon Toshiya Handa. "It was the kind of thing you only heard about celebrities and bar hostesses doing."

When he isn't redesigning faces on "Beauty Colosseum," Handa is the assistant director of the Otsuka Academy of Cosmetic and Plastic Surgery, one of Japan's best-known cosmetic surgery chains, with 14 clinics around the country.

The nation's decade-long economic slump has hardly put a blemish on the

business. By one credit agency's reckoning, spending on cosmetic surgery climbed to around \$25 million last year, up 50 percent from 1994.

Cosmetic surgeons say insecurities about typically Asian looks can be partially explained by Japan's long infatuation with images of the West — Arato said she idolizes Julia Roberts — though most of the clinic's testimonials simply describe anxiety about looking plain.

What has changed is the stigma about getting surgery.

Conventional wisdom once held that altering the face inherited from your parents was disrespectful or just vain. But Arato, who had surgical enhancements to her eyes, nose and chin, said her folks supported her decision.

Still, something of the stigma remains, judging by how many of the women who appear on "Beauty Colos-

seum" and in myriad magazine testimonials do so under assumed names. Risa Arato, for instance, appeared on TV under the name Saori Toda.

As television and women's magazines pitch the glamorous possibilities of cosmetic surgery into millions of Japanese homes, concern has risen about health risks.

Others worry about damage to Japan's psyche, saying "Beauty Colosseum" is turning the complexes of individuals into a national obsession.

But there's little sign of soul-searching among younger Japanese.

Rina Hayashi, a 29-year-old housewife, got wider eyes because she thought it would make eye shadow easier to apply.

"It didn't change my life or anything," Hayashi said. "But once you do it, you think of plenty of other things about yourself you'd love to tweak."

Kidman gets apology

Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman accepted an apology and undiscovered damages Tuesday from a British newspaper group to settle a libel suit over an article alleging that she had an adulterous affair with Jude Law.

The settlement with News Group Newspapers, publishers of *The Sun* tabloid, is the second for Kidman over the same allegations.

The actress said she would donate the damages from both cases to Fara, a charity that helps Romania's abandoned children.

Faces 'n' places

Affleck, Lopez spotted at game

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck put their differences aside Saturday night for the Red Sox-Yankees playoff game.

Affleck, of Cambridge, Mass., is a rabid Red Sox fan. Lopez is from New York and prefers the Yankees.

The couple watched the game from the front row at

Fenway Park, next to Boston's dugout. A plasma television installed in front of the seats allowed them good looks at replays — and of themselves, as the Fox cameras were trained on them repeatedly.

Affleck and Lopez also got a front-row view of Yankees bench coach Don Zimmer charging Boston pitcher Pedro Martinez, and Martinez subsequently tossing Zimmer to the ground.

Also in attendance Saturday night was NBC "Today" show host Katie Couric, whose boyfriend is Red Sox part-owner Tom Werner.

From The Associated Press

Baseball

Red Sox 3, Yankees 2

BOSTON — Tim Wakefield left the New York Yankees' hitters frustrated and frazzled, too. Only he did it with a floater instead of a head-high fastball.

Now Derek Lowe has a chance to put the Boston Red Sox ahead in the AL championship series.

Lowe, the Game 2 loser, opposes David Wells on Tuesday, trying to move Boston within a victory of its first World Series appearance since 1986.

Postseason pressure hasn't gotten to Wakefield, who is baffling batters with pitches that float toward the plate mostly at 65-70 mph.

After consecutive victories by the Yankees, the day off caused by Sunday's rainout seemed to slow New York's momentum — as did Wakefield's knuckler.

Hard to believe, but Boston is two wins for the AL pennant even though Nomar Garciaparra has no postseason RBIs and is hitting .216 in the playoffs (8-for-37).

Todd Walker and Trot Nixon hit solo homers for Boston, which despite leading the major leagues in offense hasn't scored more than five runs in any postseason game. Pinch-hitter Jason Varitek added a key RBI grounder in the seventh, speeding to first to just avoid an inning-ending double play.

Most significantly, there were no more fights between the old foes.

Wakefield beat Mike Mussina for the second time in the series, which now must return to Yankee Stadium later this week.

Until the ninth, New York's only run came home on Derek Jeter's fifth-inning double that hit third base. But after Scott Williamson struck out Nick Johnson leading off the ninth, pinch-hitter Ruben Sierra closed New York with a run with a homer, ending a streak of 19½ shutout innings for Boston's much-maligned bullpen.

Williamson, who had relieved Mike Timlin to start the inning, then struck out David Dellucci and Alfonso Soriano to earn the save.

After Sunday's rainout, fans had a festive time on the warm autumn night, booing Yankees catcher Jorge Posada, who screamed Saturday at Pedro Martinez after the Boston pitcher hit Karim Garcia with a pitch. Posada went 0-for-4 with two strikeouts, leaving seven runners on base.

They also chanted "We want Nelson," a reference to New York reliever Jeff Nelson, involved in Saturday's ninth-inning bullpen scuffle. Nelson entered to boost in the eighth just after Felix Heredia hit Walker in the shoulder. There was no hint of trouble on this one — Walker went directly to first base and said he wasn't upset.

Still, there was at least one dispute — but even then, it was resolved quickly and civilly.

After Nelson's first pitch, Boston manager Grady Little came out to talk to the umpires, who then checked the pitcher's belt and glove. But they didn't find anything against the rules.

Nelson didn't mind, saying it probably was in retaliation for New York asking umpires to check Timlin in the opener.

"His ball moves a lot, my ball moves a lot. It didn't bother me," Nelson said.

Wakefield improved to 4-0 in LCS play — he went 2-0 for Pittsburgh in 1992 against Atlanta. His eight strikeouts matched his season high, and he allowed just five hits.

While the Yankees had runners in four of the first five innings, Wakefield pitched out of trouble, holding New York to 1-for-8 with runners in scoring position and leaving the bases loaded in the fifth, when Posada ended the inning with a flyout.

Mussina has allowed five homers in the two starts against Boston, is 0-3 in this year's playoffs and is winless in his past six postseason starts.

"I can only control 60 feet, 6 inches," he said, staring down. "That's it. I'm doing my job the best I can. Other stuff has to be attended to by other people, not me."

From The Associated Press

NHL

Sabres 4, Stars 3

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Miroslav Satan and Daniel Briere each had a goal and an assist as Buffalo won its first game of the season, over Dallas on Monday.

The Sabres, shut out in their first two contests, discovered their offense early against Dallas.

Ales Kotalik snapped the Sabres' scoreless streak at 124 minutes, 36 seconds with a goal in the first period. Just 29 seconds later, the Sabres scored again as Taylor Pyatt lifted a wrist shot over Marty Turco's shoulder.

Stu Barnes made it 2-1 with his third goal of the season for Dallas.

Briere pushed Buffalo's lead to 3-1 midway through the second period and Satan added a power-play goal.

The Stars got power-play goals by Stephane Robidas and Philippe Boucher in the third period.

Hurricanes 2, Panthers 2 (OT)

RALEIGH, N.C. — Roberto Luongo stopped 33 shots to keep Carolina winless.

The Hurricanes scored one goal in each of their first two losses and did one better than that against the Panthers, but Luongo was as tough to beat as four days ago when the Panthers defeated Carolina 3-1.

Luongo saved his best stop for overtime when he stopped a shot by a wide open Sean Hill from 20 feet with a beautiful glove save.

The Hurricanes are 0-2-1 — their worst start since 1997-98.

Carolina trailed 2-1 after Marcus Nilsson scored Florida's second power-play goal midway through the second period. Kristian Huselius scored the other Panthers goal.

Jesse Boulerice and Josef Vasicek had goals for Carolina.

Blue Jackets 3, Canucks 2

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Todd Marchant had a goal and two assists — his first points in a Columbus uniform.

It was the fastest the Blue Jackets (2-1) have won two games in their four years. It took them five games last year, 14 games the year before and 10 games in their inaugural NHL season.

Rick Nash scored on a redirect with 10:16 left for the winning goal. Like Nash, David Vyborny had his second goal of the season for Columbus.

Mattias Ohlund had a goal and an assist for Vancouver. Brendan Morrison tied it 2-2 early in the third period.

Vancouver was playing its first road game after opening with a pair of home victories in which the Canucks outscored Edmonton and Calgary 7-1.

Capitals 2, Maple Leafs 2 (OT)

TORONTO — Olaf Kolzig made 34 saves, and Robert Lang scored the tying goal on a power play as Washington rallied for a tie with Toronto.

Toronto captain Mats Sundin received a holding penalty before Lang's goal tied it at 8:49 of the third period.

Sergei Gonchar also scored for the Capitals, who were outshot 36-18.

Washington's Boyd Gordon accidentally deflected the puck into his own net in the first period, with Nik Antropov getting credit for the goal. Alexander Mogilny added a goal for the Maple Leafs.

The Maple Leafs, booed off the ice in Saturday's 4-0 season-opening loss to Montreal, went 1-for-8 on the power-play.

From The Associated Press

Scores/standings

Postseason Baseball

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (Best-of-seven) American League

Monday

Boston 3, New York 2, series tied 2-2

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	1	0	1	0	3	5	4
Philadelphia	1	0	1	0	3	5	3
N.Y. Islanders	1	1	0	0	2	7	6
Pittsburgh	0	1	1	0	1	3	6
N.Y. Rangers	0	2	0	0	0	3	10

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	1	0	0	1	3	7	5
Montreal	1	1	0	0	2	6	5
Buffalo	1	2	0	0	2	4	11
Boston	0	1	2	0	2	5	9
Toronto	0	1	1	0	1	2	6

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Atlanta	2	0	0	0	4	6	4
Florida	1	0	2	0	4	6	4
Washington	1	1	1	0	3	11	7
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	0	2	5	1
Carolina	0	2	1	0	1	4	7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	2	0	0	0	4	6	4
Columbus	2	1	0	0	4	9	4
St. Louis	1	0	0	1	3	3	3
Nashville	1	1	0	0	2	4	4
Chicago	1	2	0	0	2	3	9

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	2	1	0	0	4	9	4
Calgary	1	1	0	0	2	4	6
Colorado	1	1	0	0	2	6	2
Edmonton	1	1	0	0	2	5	5
Minnesota	1	2	0	0	2	7	7

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Phoenix	2	0	0	0	4	4	1
Dallas	2	1	0	0	4	10	6
Los Angeles	2	1	0	0	4	9	5
San Jose	1	2	0	0	2	7	10
Anaheim	0	3	0	0	0	2	9

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

Monday's games

Buffalo 4, Dallas 3

Florida 2, Carolina 2, tie
Columbus 3, Vancouver 2
Washington 2, Toronto 2, tie

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	4	1	0	.800	105	58
New England	4	2	0	.667	126	113
Buffalo	3	3	0	.500	114	103
N.Y. Jets	1	4	0	.200	75	80

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	5	1	0	.833	178	105
Tennessee	4	2	0	.667	157	133
Houston	2	3	0	.333	111	146
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.167	110	154

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	108	92
Cleveland	3	3	0	.500	92	95
Pittsburgh	2	4	0	.333	111	146
Cincinnati	1	4	0	.200	77	106

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	6	0	0	1.000	191	115
Denver	5	1	0	.833	158	87
Oakland	2	4	0	.333	115	144
San Diego	0	5	0	.000	89	149

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	4	1	0	.800	112	93
Washington	3	3	0	.500	128	147
N.Y. Giants	2	3	0	.400	95	109
Philadelphia	2	3	0	.400	81	109

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	5	0	0	1.000	101	68
Tampa Bay	3	2	0	.600	127	73
New Orleans	2	4	0	.333	107	151
Atlanta	1	5	0	.167	97	175

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	5	0	0	1.000	151	84
Green Bay	3	3	0	.500	176	132
Chicago	1	4	0	.200	80	152
Detroit	1	4	0	.200	94	122

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	4	1	0	.800	122	87
St. Louis	3	2	0	.600	136	84
San Francisco	2	4	0	.333	135	119
Arizona	1	5	0	.167	82	180

Monday's game

St. Louis 36, Atlanta 0

From The Associated Press

Sports in brief

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State line-backer Robert Reynolds was suspended one game for jamming his fingers into the throat of Wisconsin quarterback Nick Sorgi and choking him.

Reynolds will miss the eighth-ranked Buckeyes' homecoming game Saturday against No. 9 Iowa at Ohio Stadium, coach Jim Tressell said.

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Army coach Todd Berry was fired with the team 5-35 in his four seasons and mired in an eight-game losing streak. Army (0-6) has just one victory in its past 17 games. John Mumford, who served as defensive line coach the past four seasons, was made interim coach.

HORSE RACING

ARCADIA, Calif. — Hall of Fame jockey Bill Shoemaker will be honored at a public memorial service in the winner's circle at Santa Anita racetrack on Oct. 21. The track will open its grandstand for the 4 p.m. ceremony, to be held on a non-racing day during the week of the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships.

Shoemaker died in his sleep Sunday at his San Marino home, a few miles from the track. He was 72.

TENNIS

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Martina Navratilova will lead the U.S. team at next month's Fed Cup, and at 47 will be the oldest player to compete in the event's 40-year history.

Meghann Shaughnessy, Lisa Raymond and Alexandra Stevenson also were chosen for the team that will play Belgium in the semifinals in Moscow on Nov. 19-20.

Navratilova, who will be 47 Saturday, last played in this competition in 1995. Her 37-0 singles and doubles record is unmatched in Fed Cup history.

ZURICH, Switzerland — Fifth-seeded Chanda Rubin lost and Lindsay Davenport withdrew because of a foot injury on opening day of the Swisscom Challenge.

Jelena Dokic beat Rubin for her first victory over a top 10 player this season.

SOCCER

FRANKFURT, Germany — The big three teams in soccer's Euro 2004 playoffs avoided each other in the draw.

Spain will face Norway, the Netherlands will play Scotland and Turkey will meet Latvia in playoff games scheduled for Nov. 15-16 and 18-19.

In other games, it's Russia-Wales and Croatia-Slovenia. Spain, Scotland, Latvia, Croatia and Russia play at home in the first leg.

OLYMPICS

MADRID, Spain — The draw for the men's Olympic basketball tournament will take place Nov. 8 in Madrid.

The United States is among 12 teams that have qualified for the Athens Games.

From The Associated Press